# Casemate

Published for the community of Fort Mc

Spotlight

Hispanic Heritage Event

A special celebration here Tuesday will feature dance demonstrations and Emmy-award-winner Mercedes Soler..... Page 3

September 16, 2005

Vol. 27, No. 19

## What's



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The devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the near-miss of Ophelia are good reminders of the importance of hurricane preparation.

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### **Community Notice**

### Mandatory ethics training continues

All post employees are reminded that the Secretary of the Army has made face-to-face ethics training mandatory for military and civilian personnel regardless of rank or position. The next training session will be held Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Post Theater. Participants must sign up on arrival to receive credit for the training. For more information, call 788-4187.

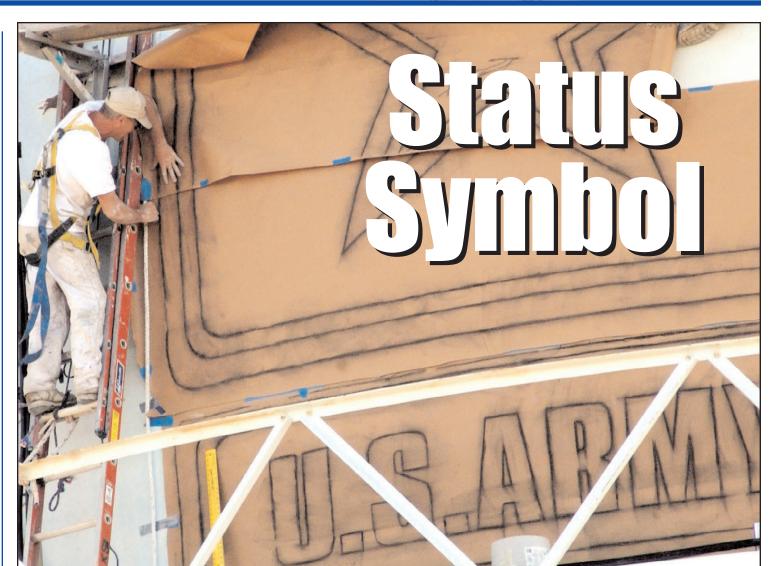


Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Randy Greenfield of Kessinger Services, Louisville, Ky., lays out a new piece of artwork for the post water tower. It took four days to draw and paint the approximate 15-foot-by-15-foot service logo. U.S. Army Accessions Command, a Fort Monroe tenant organization, paid for the project. The emblem can be seen from the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, a heavily traveled thoroughfare that spans the Chesapeake Bay..

# Ophelia skirts Monroe; results in lesson learned

### BY PATRICK BUFFETT

CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Now that Hurricane Ophelia appears less threatening to Fort Monroe, post officials are taking a close look at the steps they took to prepare for the storm, hoping to glean good "lessons learned" for future weather emergencies.

"I know there will be some decisions we might want to rethink and some actions that we'll look back on and say 'that was absolutely the right thing to do,' but the bottom line is that we were very prepared for this storm thanks to every Soldier, civilian



Lt. Gen. Anthony R. Jones U.S Army TRADOC

employee, contractor and family member on Monroe," said Lt. Gen. Anthony R. Jones, the acting commanding general of U.S Army TRADOC.

Hampton officials, about 40 facility. ing were provided safe refuge from the potential threat of the incoming storm. Jones said the decision was made early on, since that area of the installation has a greater potential of flooding as experienced during Hurricane Isabel in September

Post residents were also given the option of moving their vehicles to higher ground at a parking garage in downtown Hampton. As of Thursday morning,

With the cooperation of approximately 80 vehicles post residents and City of had been relocated to that

families from Wherry Hous- "That was a lesson learned from Isabel," Jones noted. "About 300 privately owned vehicles were totaled by floodwater during that storm."

> Early preparations also included the pre-positioning of roughly 1,000 sandbags at various locations on post. Office workers and residents were encouraged to "use as many as they could carry."

> "Our post exchange pitched in by ordering extra fuel, water and ice, which

See OPHELIA, Page 3

Rather than beating ourselves up, we need to give ourselves permission to be human.

## Life is an emotional roller coaster

nice if life was a little more like a flat stretch of Montana highway and a little less like a roller coaster?

We get way up, only to have the bottom drop out from under us. One moment we're grieving a loss, the next we receive a pleasant surprise that makes us feel happy, and then we experience guilt and sadness when we remember what we were feeling before. At times, it seems like we're getting jerked around by our emotions.

Fort Monroe experienced some emotional ups and downs over the past summer. Think back to Friday, May 13, when we received the news that the Pentagon had recommended our closure.

We dealt with that and wound up enjoying the July 4th fireworks, a couple of great concerts, the King and His Court softball exhibiChaplain's orner

Maj. Jerald Jacobs Post Chaplain's Office

tion game, Music Under the Stars, Summerfest and all the other wonderful opportunities this post has to offer. We kept doing the great job we've done along. It was a good summer.

BRAC was always in the back of our minds, though. We may have forgotten about it, but it was never really far away. Some people were even convinced we'd not stay on the list.

But the news of August 24 hit some of us pretty hard: the Commission agreed with the Pentagon that Fort Monroe should be

That's a lot of ups, downs, twists and turns. It can be hard to deal with.

Why does life have to be so hard? There are a lot of really long complicated answers to that question. I think the quick and easy answer is that it's so hard because we make it so.

We all have a vision of how we think life should look, and, when it doesn't look that way, we get frustrated. At first we may try to pretend that it really does look the way we dreamed it, no matter what all those "objective" people around us say.

The inevitable realization that life's not going the way we wanted it to can be enough to cause some people to shut down emotionally. Some "do not go gentle into that good night" of

watching our dreams die and our hopes disintegrate against the rocks. Some lose all hope and become like Eeyore, the morose donkey from A.A. Milne's "Winnie the Pooh" stories.

Most of us experience all of these emotional responses to some degree before we finally get to the point of accepting reality and learning to live where we are. The good news is that most people do tend to make it to that point.

These times of disappointment, loss, failure and grief are hard, but they are also opportunities to grow spiritually. Part of spiritual fitness is having a hopeful appreciation for reality as well as a realistic hope for the future.

We know that we are human, limited and inconsistent. We let ourselves down and hurt those closest to us. Rather than beating ourselves up, we need to give ourselves permission to be human.

"To err is Human," Alexander Pope wrote in "An Essay on Criticism" in 1711. He followed that quote with the words, "to Forgive, Divine." Most of us find forgiving ourselves harder than forgiving others – which is never easy. If we can accept that others are human and will let us down, we are less likely to be so hurt by their failure or the havoc they wreak in our lives (intentionally or otherwise). We're less likely to overreact to the random frustrations of life.

Either way, if we can pardon a little humanness in ourselves and others, we can be happier. If we recognize that life can send us hurdling at breakneck speed and give us whiplash with its sudden twists and turns, and that, even if it does, that won't kill us, we're less likely to be overwhelmed by it.

We might even start enjoying the ride. God bless you.

The success of the Student Spotlight column totally depends on reader input

## Casemate seeks student stories

he many contributions of school-age youth in our community is the focus of a special column the Casemate hopes to continue throughout the coming academic year.

Titled "Student Spotlight," the column will highlight the wide range of achievements by elementary, middle and high school students of the Fort Monroe community.

Specifically, the newspaper will seek out the most accomplished youths in the areas of academics, sports and community service.

Unique student awards, out of the ordinary extracurricular activities,

and voluntary participation in community programs that focus on history, conservation, neighborhood improvement, caring for the elderly, etc., are just some of the endeavors worthy of this special recogni-

The success of this new column totally depends upon story recommendations by parents or other community members.

If you know of a student who truly performs "above and beyond" his or her peers, give the newspaper staff a call or send them an e-mail with the subject's name, a brief explanation of the achievement and contact information for the

nominee's parents or a guardian.

The Casemate editor will determine the level of coverage based on the significance of the accomplishment. Most stories will require an interview and photographs of the subject.

Any individual who submits a student's name for recognition may also include photographs, however, they must be of high quality (in focus, well-lit, and high resolution) and action shots are always preferred over posed pho-

All interviews and photo shoots will be coordinated with a parent or guardian, as well as final clearance of any stories that are writ-

The Casemate will conclude this series at the end of each school year with a final tribute to graduating high school seniors within the Fort Monroe communi-

Parents and community members who know of a graduating senior within the Monroe family are asked to keep that final column in mind and submit the information that will be requested by the Casemate after January 2006.

For further information or to nominate a subject, call 788-3520/3208/3531 or e-mail: casemate@monroe. army.mil.

### Snotliaht Event

### **POSH Training**

The Prevention of Sexual Harrassment (POSH) make-up training session originally planned for Sept. 14 is now scheduled for Sept. 26 at 9 a.m. in the Post Theater. All employees, military and civilian, who have not attended a previous POSH session this calendar year must attend this training. For more information, contact Debra Larkins at 788-3500.

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## Casemate

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2509 Walmer Avenue Norfolk, VA 23513 (757) 857-1212/FAX (757) 853-1634

# Dancers, Emmy-winning journalist highlight Hispanic Heritage event

Fort Monroe's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration Sept. 20 will feature Panamanian Folkloric and salsa dance demonstrations and a special presentation by Emmy-Award-winning journalist Mercedes Soler.

The event will be held at the Bay Breeze Community Center starting at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited. Admission to the program is free, but there is a \$9 lunch fee.

The observance's dance entertainment includes the Panamanian Folkloric Dance Group performing in "Polleras," a traditional costume from Panama, and "tembleques," hair ornaments worn by women.

The salsa dance demonstration will feature Leo Figuereo and Millie Escobosa. They will give a



brief history of a dance they call "SalsaVA" while giving lessons to members of the audience.

The observance's featured speaker, Soler, has spent the past 18 years working as a senior correspondent and substitute anchor for Univision, the leading Spanish language television network in the U.S.

She has interviewed a dozen Latin American presidents. Her face and body of work is recognizable throughout the United States and more than two-dozen countries in Europe and Latin America.

An authentic Hispanic luncheon buffet, catered by the Hispanic Restaurant Amadeus, will be served on site following the formal program, around 11:45 am

The Bay Breeze Community Center, Building 185, is located on Fenwick Road. Off-post guests are reminded that access to the installation for anyone 18 years of age or older requires a valid picture ID.

For additional information and lunch tickets, contact Steve Friederich at 788-5452 or steven.friederich@usaac.army.mil. Tickets will also be distributed and sold through command channels.

# Fall Faire features flea market, food, live music

Walker Airfield will be the site of the "wurst" party of the year Oct. 7 and 8.

Fort Monroe Special Events is hosting the 2005 Fall Faire, which includes an Oktoberfest celebration with live music, German-style food and beverages, and a flea market and craft show.

The fun begins with Oktoberfest from 5 to 9 p.m., Oct. 7. Live music will be provided by the Schnicklefritz Band. There will also be plenty of food and some great door prizes.

The festivities continue at 9 a.m. Oct. 8 with the Peninsula Pathfinders Volksmarch, followed by the flea market from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. And the fest tent will continue to rock with live music, food and fun.

To reserve space at the flea market, call 788-4305. For volksmarch information, call 722-5637...

## Computer game continues to promote Army life

BY DONNA HYATT

TRADOC NEWS SERVICE

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Following the success of the computer game "America's Army," a new Xbox and PlayStation 2 console version called "America's Army, Rise of a Soldier" was unveiled in August at Fort Benning and is expected to go on sale in October.

Three years ago the Army released "America's Army," a free computer game originally created for recruiting purposes, which became an instant gaming success.

At last count, the Army estimates there are more than 5.5 million registered players of "America's Army," making it the fifth or sixth most popular computer game played in the world.

More gamers play on a console such as Xbox and PS2 than on a computer, said Col. Casey Wardynski, an internal consultant from the U.S. Military Academy, and Army project director for "America's Army, Rise of a Soldier."

The new game was designed in conjunction with Ubisoft, a leading international developer, publisher and distributor of interactive entertainment products.

"The PC version and the new version are different, but we took a lot of the experience and the look of the game from the PC game," said Tony Van, executive producer for Ubisoft.

"There are some things completely unique about 'America's Army, Rise of a Soldier,' but anyone who played the (computer) game will notice some things we kept from the original."

Van said it took about one year to develop the new console-only version of the Army game.

"We did a number of motion-cap-

tures with different special forces Soldiers and filmed different locations around the world to make it as authentic as possible," he said.

According to Van, the new console game has a number of extra things such as a full character model that can be created from the ground up, and the option of playing alone or as part of a team.

"You can go anywhere from recruit to special forces," he said. "It has an open-ended career mode so a player can choose how to move through their Army career.

"You start with no skills, and as you go through the game and build up skills, you create a custom character that increases your own ability and the ability of your teammates," Van said.

The original "America's Army" game is based upon the different training schools and terrain found

at Fort Benning.

"There's a reason for that," Wardynski said. "Many of the kids playing it are going to come in the Army, and we want them to feel like they're been here before. Like they're hitting the ground running. They've captured everything down to the dirt."

"Fort Benning has an interesting history with the game because the PC version takes a player through basic training. He can even go to Airborne School and Ranger school," said Maj. Randy Zeegers, 20th Special Forces Group, Alabama National Guard.

A new Internet download for "America's Army" called "Overmatch" will also come out in the

"America's Army" can be downloaded free of charge at www.americasarmy.com.

### OPHELIA Continued from Page 1

are items that are always in short supply in the wake of any potential storm of this magnitude," Jones said.

On Wednesday, the Community Activities Center was prepared to offer shelter to post residents if Ophelia caused substantial damage to homes or knocked out power.

"That too was a lesson learned from Isabel when we waited until the storm passed before we started coordinating that support," the general explained. "This time we had forts Lee and Eustis standing by, ready to provide generators, ice, mobile kitchen services and even water purification."

Fort Lee also offered vehicle support for poststorm damage assessment and recovery. The Northeast Region Office, Installation Management Agency, here put each of its Army bases in the area on standby to lend a hand wherever and whenever needed.

"The bottom line is that all of these elements came together because we were all pulling on the same rope," Jones said. "The teamwork and car"We've seen so many examples of what it means to be a community during this process. We've also learned a great deal about the types of support we can count on and the way the planning should work."

Lt. Gen. Anthony R. Jones
ACTING COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY TRADOC

ing is exactly what I would expect from our great community."

Jones also addressed the many contributions of nearby city officials and the leaders of other installations in the area. They only had one thought on their minds throughout the storm preparation process, he noted, and that thought was "how can I help?"

"We've seen so many examples of what it means to be a community during this process,"

the general said. "We've also learned a great deal about the types of support we can count on and the way the planning should work.

"I realize that some of the decisions made this past week might be perceived as premature or flat out unnecessary. During the resident town hall meeting on Wednesday you might recall me saying that I even hope I'm wrong," the general said.

"But you have to consider what we're dealing with," he added. "Look at the path of Ophelia and what happened when Katrina took a slight turn to the west. I would rather live with the frustrations of making an early decision than the consequences of waiting to late and jeopardizing safety."

The "silver lining" of this latest hurricane drill, Jones concluded, is better preparation for the next storm. Ophelia stressed the need for improved communications and emergency notification procedures. And it added new emphasis to the importance of prior planning for emergency situations at home and in the office.



A Clean Sweep Walk will be held Tuesday at the Fitness Center at 11:30 a.m. Rubber gloves, plastic bags and refreshments are provided to all participants.

### Tuskegee Airmen luncheon

The Tidewater Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., will host its quarterly Professional Development Luncheon Sept. 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Williamsburg Room of the Langley Air Force Base Officers' Club.

The guest speaker will be retired Lt. Col. Howard Manly, president and CEO of The Manly Group. The event will also include a display honoring the accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Tidewater Chapter. Guests will also have an opportunity to meet and greet some of the airmen.

To RSVP, call Mac Fields at 898-6993; Chief Master Sgt. David Debose at 764-6596 or Yolanda Hinton at 864-4950 by Sept. 19. For general information, call 764-4149.

### Thrift Shop reopens

The Fort Monroe Thrift Shop reopened Tuesday, and its volunteers will accept fall and winter clothing, furniture and other items for consignment Donations are also welcome. Items may be placed in the donation box 24 hours a day.

Volunteers are also needed, especially on Tuesdays. The shop is open every Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 788-2566.

### Clean up project

A clean-up and repair project at Poquoson's "Kids Island" playground — located between the primary and high schools — is scheduled for Sept. 24.

Volunteers are especially needed to spread mulch and gravel from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tools like rakes, pitch forks, shovels and wheel barrels are also needed. Drinks will be provided.

Call Eva Granville at 788-3993 for more information.

### Jobseeker workshops

Free career development workshops for job seekers in the local area are conducted regularly at the Peninsula Worklink One-Stop Career Center in Hampton.

As many as 15 different workshops are offered at any given time. For more information and a complete schedule, stop by the Virginia Workforce Center — 600 Butler Farm Road, Room 1015 — or call 865-5874.

### **OPC** Toastmasters

The Old Point Comfort Toastmasters Club invites others in the Fort Monroe community to join them at their regular monthly meetings conducted every first and third Wednesday of the month at 11:40 a.m. in Room 248 of Craven Health Clinic.

These dynamic and fun meetings will help you improve your communication and leadership skills. For more information, call Beverly Nicholson at 788-4132 or John Tutson at 788-2783.

4X10

2X8 AD

## Post workers receive civilian service honors

Thirty-nine Fort Monroe government employees have been recognized for high levels of achievement with receipt of the Superior Civilian Service Award (SCSA), Commander's Award for Civilian Service (CACS), or the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service Award (AMCS).

The awardees are:

**Command Group -** Maria Bernick - SCSA, Gloria Diggs - CACS, Sandra Hardwick - CACS, Judith King TRADOC - AMCS, Donald Woodruff - CACS

DCSOPS&T - Mildred Abell - CACS, Pam Austin - SCSA, Mary Berg - CACS, Marta J. Bailey - CACS, William Briscoe - SCSA, Pamela Dragon - CACS, David Gannon - AMCS, Evelyn Golden - AMCS, Pamela Harrison - CACS, Julie Hartzheim - CACS, Brenda Heffington - SCSA, Lyle A. Hughes - CACS, Warren Jones - CACS, Elizabeth Kinne - CACS, John Kuftic - SCSA, Michelle Linn - SCSA, Duane MacCallister -CACS, Meridyth Martin - SCSA, Betty May -CACS, Ann Neverson - SCSA, Robert Patrick -CACS, Jel Portuese - AMCS, Lawrence Rieger -SCSA, Gordon Rogers - CACS, Bruce Schoch -AMCS, Rachel Serio - CACS, Robert Stevens -SCSA, Norma Townsley - CACS, Tony Tyson -SCSA, Charles Wilborne - SCSA

**DCSRM** – Kathleen Campbell - AMCS, Mary Firman - SCSA, Nikesha Jackson - AMCS, Barbara Morgan - SCSA, Ann Spady - AMCS, Mary Wells - SCSA

**DCSPIL** – Sue Moore - CACS, Lisa Nelms - CACS, Benjamin Pendleton - SCSA Claire Samuelson - CACS

The honorees received medals, lapel pins and citation certificates. Honorary awards for the civilian workforce are aligned with military awards.

The SCSA — equivalent to the Meritorious Service Medal — is the third highest DA honorary award. Nominations for this award will reflect superior service, achievement or heroism.

2X3 AD

2X3 AD The CACS — equivalent to the Army Commendation Medal — is the fourth highest DA honorary award. Nominees demonstrate initiative and skill in devising new or improved equipment, work methods; leadership in performing assigned duties; or render professional or public relations type of service which resulted in con-

siderable favorable publicity in the local area.

The AMCS award is equivalent to the Army Achievement Medal and is the fifth highest DA honorary award. A nominee for this award demonstrates either a period of sustained superior service or a level of achievement sufficient to warrant recognition.

4X12 AD

# 'Idol' pursuit ends for Monroe Soldier

BY PATRICK BUFFETT

**CASEMATE STAFF WRITER** 

A Fort Monroe Soldier's pursuit of a first-time, Army-wide singing title ended Sept. 8 when she was eliminated from the "Military Idol" talent contest at Fort Eustis.

Sgt. Robin Smith of the 233rd Military Police Detachment couldn't persuade a trio of judges and an audience mostly comprised of Eustis Soldiers and family members to keep her in the competition despite her powerful rendition of the Mariah Carey hit, "Hero."

"The audience vote accounts for 50 percent of each competitor's overall score," explained Randy Smith, area coordinator for the new contest that was initiated earlier this year by the U.S. Army Soldier and Family Support Center.

"Just like the (FOX) television show this was spun off of, popularity is definitely a factor in who goes forward. It's unfortunate that more people from the Fort Monroe community didn't come out to support her. Still, I hope she knows that she made some friends and gained quite a few fans here."

One other Fort Monroe Soldier, Staff Sgt. Janice Johnson of U. S. Army Cadet Command, was also among the original pack of 12 competitors entered in the local contest. She was eliminated by a lack of audience votes during a previous round in late August. (Johnson was featured in the Sept. 2 edition of the Casemate.)

In the moments leading up to her final Idol performance, Smith had already accepted the fact that she would most likely become a victim of numbers versus talent. "I think the Idol competition overall is a good idea," the Norfolk native said. "But the way the scoring worked this year is real disappointing. I hope they'll take a look at that and do it differently next time."

As for what motivated her to sign up for the contest to begin with, Smith said matter-of-factly, "It's just what I do." Yet, she would be the last person to describe herself as a "performer."



Photo by Patrick Buffett

Sgt. Robin Smith of the 233rd Military Police Detachment sings the Mariah Carey hit "Hero" during the Sept. 8 "Military Idol" talent contest at Fort Eustis.

"I'm really shy, actually, and I know I could never sing for a living," she said, wrinkling her nose at the notion. "I guess I see it as a talent that I shouldn't just throw away."

The 27-year-old administrative NCO – who has never studied music or had a formal singing lesson – has performed for numerous ceremonies and special events since joining the Army in May 1999.

Her past gigs include a short stint with The U.S. Continental Army Band and Fort Monroe celebrations like the annual holiday tree lighting ceremony. Smith was also part of the U.S. Army Soldier Show in 2002.

"(That's) something I can look back on and be proud of," she said. "And it makes me think, 'what would happen if I found that person who could work with me and help me relax and enjoy singing?" I know I have a powerful voice, but I'm not sure if I've found that 'singer' inside of me."

The local "Military Idol" contest concludes Sept. 22 at 7 p.m., when

the audience on hand at the Fort Eustis Club will once again pick their favorite. That Soldier will not only receive a \$500 prize, in addition to another \$500 that will go to his assigned unit, but will also move on to the Army-wide competition at Fort Gordon, Ga., Oct. 17 to

The Idol finals will draw participants from 36 Army installations. A \$1,000 prize goes to the winner at that level, along with the title "Ambassador of Army Entertainment." The last 90-minute round of the competition will be aired live over the Pentagon Channel.

The "Military Idol" contest is the brainchild of Coleen Amstein, who works in business programs for Army CFSC, and Victor Hurtado, artistic director for the Army Soldier Show.

It took just over a year to work the details of the program and coordinate a licensing agreement with FreemantleMedia, which holds the rights to "American Idol."

One of the "ultimate goals" of the overall contest, Hurtado noted, is for mainstream America to "embrace our Soldiers and embrace our programs." On a local level, Randy Smith said the contest is a great way to spotlight the many talents of Soldiers, as well as the variety of Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

"I think it's very exciting," he said. "And there's talk of expanding the contest to include other services in the near future. I think it has the potential of evolving into a tremendous program that builds morale and generates more business for our club system."

3X7 AD

3X3.5 AD

### MP Roll Call

### August Crime/ Incident Statistics

Building alarm - 9 Unsecured building - 1 Fire alarm – 3 Fuel spill - 1 Gas leak - 1 Medical emergency - 3 Damage to private property - 3 Damage to government property – 1 Traffic accident resulting in damage to private property - 1 Traffic accident resulting in damage to government property - 2 Breaking and entering – 1 Tampering with or unlawful use of cable television service – 1 Malicious mischief – 1 Simple assault - 1

Possession of a controlled substance - 1 Suspicious package -1 **DWI - 1** Illegal parking - 23 Driving with a suspended license - 2 Speeding – 6 Failure to stop at posted stop sign - 3Failure to carry vehicle insurance - 1 Failure to carry driver's license - 1 Failure to display handicap placard - 1 Failure to restrain child properly - 1 Displaying of altered plates - 1



### Retirement Recognition

Lt. Gen. Joseph Yakovac, left, military deputy director for the Army Acquisition Corps, presents Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, outgoing Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Training, hisretirement certificate during a Sept. 8 ceremony at Robert E. Lee Memorial Park inside the moat.

Photo by James Wagner

# Shoplifters hurt troops, families AAFES warns

DALLAS - Members of the U.S. Armed Forces build careers around values like trust, competency and responsibility, all of which can come crashing down with one shoplifting incident.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service has several avenues to prevent shoplifting, and supports legislation to recover stolen merchandise.

If a customer passes on the opportunity to pay for merchandise, loss prevention associates turn the issue over to military police. Furthermore, the Federal Claims Collection Act allows AAFES to enact a Civil Recovery Program, which began March 1, 2002. The flat, administrative cost, applicable to every shoplifting incidence, is \$200 and there may be further fees depending on the condition of the recovered merchandise.

Shoplifting in military exchanges costs service members millions of dollars annually. In fact, AAFES detained 9,076 shoplifters in 2004 alone.

Civil Recovery allows AAFES to recoup some of the losses associated with shoplifting; however, the damage to a career and reputation can be irreparable. 5X10 AD

### Celebrating the Spirit ... Hispanic Heritage Month

## Post employee draws inspiration from parents' example

### BY BELINDA BAKER

CASEMATE CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Every duty day, Maria Bernick plays a role in telling the U.S. Army's story.

As a planning group assistant in the TRADOC Commanding General's Office, she belongs to a team that brings speeches to life for the TRADOC commanding general.

The Caguas, Puerto Rico native believes this isn't a bad gig for someone who practically grew up in the Army as the child of a now retired sergeant first class.

Bernick, whose job involves tracking the general's speaking engagements and gathering information for the general's speechwriter, said watching the progression of a commitment gives her great satisfaction.

"You see it on the calendar. You research the information. The draft is done. The final speech is done and the general gives the speech or the PowerPoint presentation.

"Very few individuals actually get to see the entire circle of their endeavor or where they actually fit in and what impact their job has. It gives me a great deal of pride to play a small part in spreading the U.S. Army story," she said.

"As speechwriters for the different generals come in I ask, 'what are the three most important things I can do for you?' Every commanding general that has come in has had his focus and his commander's intent. So naturally, each speechwriter is different. Then, of course, the events that are happening throughout the world



Maria Bernick

and the changes in the Army have an impact," Bernick added.

She never knows what the day may bring when reporting for work at the TRADOC hub each day.

"It's never been boring. No two days are alike but they are all fast-paced. Every speaking com-

mitment is different. My approach is to view (the engagement) as the host's most important event. They're not aware that I may have another 20 or 30 engagements on the list. I try to project an interest in gathering information on their event whereby they are going to feel that this is an important item on the general's agenda. It's the most important event to them so it becomes the most important to me as well," she said.

Bernick has worked in her current capacity for 22 years serving with 11 speechwriters and nine commanding generals. She pointed out that while service as an Army civilian has been valuable, her stint as secretary to the special assistant for POW/MIA Matters, Navy Bureau of Personnel, was also an important phase in her career.

"The (five) years that I worked for the Navy had a great influence in my life. It was during the Vietnam War. I was young and impressionable. It was a rewarding job because we were a liaison between the Navy Department and the families of POW/MIAs.

"I learned firsthand about the dedication of the spouses and family members who had to do without their husbands and sons for so many years. I saw the sacrifice (the service members who were imprisoned) made and witnessed their dedication, faith in God, country and family. On top of having grown up in a military family, that experience taught me a great deal," she

Bernick received a 30-year civil service pin in See BERNICK, Page 10

# 3X14

### BERNICK Continued from Page 9

June and proudly acknowledges that her father, a Korean War veteran, inspired her work ethic. She credits her mother with providing the skills she needed to function in environments outside of their native culture.

"I come from a Hispanic background and I've very proud of my Puerto Rican heritage. It's difficult sometimes being of one culture and living another.

"Growing up, traveling around with my parents as an Army brat, I would often ask, 'what should I do?' She'd say, 'Take the best of both, combine them and make your own. You're unique because you have that and your military background makes you special as well.

Having spent a large part of her childhood and teenaged years at Fort Eustis, Va., Bernick took her mother's advice in stride. It was at Fort Eustis where she met Gregg, her husband of 36 years. Meanwhile, she moved to Puerto Rico

where she earned an associate's degree in bilingual secretarial science from the University of Puerto Rico. Since that time their family has grown to include a son and daughter who are now adults living and/or working in other Virginia cities.

In addition to earning an associate's degree, Bernick studied journalism and writing at Christopher Newport University, Newport News.

Bernick said her goal has always been to have a rewarding career and to date it has been. Given that, she does not foresee retiring yet.

"Doing meaningful and significant work is important to me. I thoroughly enjoy what I do. Plus, I'm always fascinated with this level of command. These people are sometimes hand-picked to come here and work for the different generals. They can have anybody in here that they choose and I've been privileged to continue," she said.

### Visit us online at: www.monroe.army.mil/casemate

3X8

# **Faithful Friends**

## Historic Monroe cemetery honors hundreds of pets

BY JOSHUA BREVARD

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER** 

Who was Mr. Spook Shea? According to his tombstone, he was born in November 1945 and died in February 1962. It also reads: "Army Dog, World Traveler

and Our Best Friend."

Mr. Spook Shea is one of many animals buried in the old pet cemetery on top of the Casemate. There are roughly 400 pets up there,

including dogs, cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs. The graves stretch

A headstone at the post pet cemetery honors a fallen family friend.

along the ramparts above the museum to just past the flag pole adjacent to the Chapel Center.

"Old pet cemeteries are fairly common on military bases," said David Johnson, director of the Casemate Museum. "Langley Air Force Base and Fort Eustis both have them. (However,) Fort Monroe has one of the oldest pet cemeteries in this part of Virginia."

While there are no definitive documents that establish an exact date when the first pet was buried atop the Casemate, Johnson said there is an old story about a colonel who buried his dog somewhere up there

It appears the colonel began a tradition that lasted 60 years.

Today, the oldest surviving gravestone is from 1936. Many of the older markers have been stolen, weather-beaten or destroyed. Those that remain – and are quite visible - include tributes to: "Our Noble Shepherd, Sultan," who was buried in 1983 by the Sevier family; and Dutchie Marsh whose epitaph reads "1961-1977, She lifted up our hearts."

"People originally buried their pets here because of the convenience," Johnson said. "They did not need to travel far off base to another cemetery, and it was free. Pet owners only had to provide the coffin and gravestone, and dig the grave."

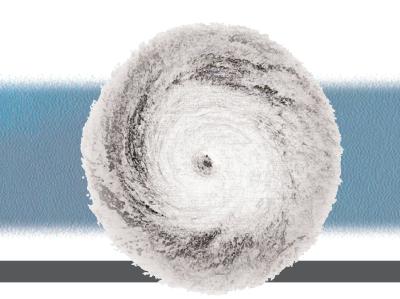
In August 1988, the Army ordered all pet cemeteries on its bases closed. The decision stemmed from a House Armed Services Committee complaint concerning the cost of a complex burial at Fort Gordon, Ga.

A Web search revealed no additional details about that particular event, however, a slew of pet cemetery sites were found with services ranging from a few hundred dollars for a simple cremation to several thousand dollars for a solid copper vault and black granite marker with an engraved likeness of the deceased.

Backyard pet burials, such as those once conducted atop the Casemate, may also be prohibited by city our county ordinance these days, according to www.pet-loss.net. And it's really not a good choice for renters or people who move frequently

"To many, a pet cemetery pro See CEMETERY, Page 18

# Hurricane



# Emergency Supply Checklist

<ul> <li>Alternate heating and cooking sources such a a kerosene heater or camp stove.</li> </ul>
☐ Shovels and hand tools.
☐ Candles and matches.
☐ A mop, bucket and towels.
☐ One or more rolls of plastic sheeting, a stap gun with staples and duct tape.
☐ Plastic trash bags and ties.
☐ Emergency kit for your car with flares, booste cable, maps, a first aid kit and fire extinguisher.
☐ Citizens band radio or cellular phone,if possible
☐ Games/favorite toys.
□ Extra cash.
□ Pet food.
☐ Insect repellant.
☐ Rubber boots and gloves.

### Inclement weather call list

The following is a list of area radio and television stations that are notified when weather affects the work status at Fort Monroe:

TELEVISION: WAVY-TV, Ch. 10 WVEC-TV. Ch. 13 RADIO:

**WXMM FM 100.5** WGH AM 1310/FM 97.3 WHRO FM 90.3 **WHRV FM 89.5** WKUS FM 105.3

WNIS AM 790 **WNOR FM 98.7** WNVZ FM 104.5 **WOWI FM 102.9** WPTE FM 94.9

**WTJZ AM 1270** WWDE FM 101.3 **WXEZ FM 94.1** 

All changes to Fort Monroe operational status (i.e. closure) will also be posted on the installation homepage: www.monroe.army.mil/monroe

### **Additional Weather/Information Sources:**

- The Weather Channel, a 24/7 cable network dedicated to weather forecasts and storm updates. - In the event of hurricane warnings, supervisors will inform their workers about early-release information.

For emergencies, call the Military Police at 788-2238/2239.

For storm repairs and safety hazards, call the DPW Service Order Desk at 788-4228.

### Hurricane preparation

- Learn about your community's emergency plans, warning signals, evacuation routes and locations of at least two emergency shelters.
- Take a first aid and CPR course
- Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.
- Consider flood insurance, especially if you are in a flood zone. Keep in mind, most insurance companies enforce a grace period before the policy takes effect.
- Teach family members how and when to turn off
- gas, electricity and water.

  Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police or the fire department.
- Insure fire extinguishers are fully charged and easi-

- ly accessible. Teach family members how to extinguish a fire.
- Conduct an evacuation drill for at least two ways out of your home.
- Establish an assembly point outside your home where all family members will meet in case they become separated.
- Update your emergency contact information to include names of relatives who would know how to reach you if ordered to evacuate. Provide that information to friends and your employer.
- insurance policies and wills that should go with you if

- ordered to evacuate.
- Inventory your property and take photographs or shoot video of high-dollar items such as major electronics, jewelry and antique furniture.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit (see recommended content list at left).
- Make arrangements for pets. Most shelters do not allow animals. Also insure your shelter has a pet evacuation plan, and is within easy access via evacuation routes.
- Consider purchasing UV resistant tarps and other ■ Know the location of your important papers such as tools needed to make temporary repairs after the

### Hurricane watch/warning in effect

- Check your supplies, especially water, batteries and non-perishable food that doesn't need to be cooked.
- Fill your vehicles with gas as well as approved fuel containers used for generators if applicable
- Get extra cash to carry you over in case banks are
- closed and ATMs are without power.

  Turn refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and open doors only when absolutely necessary. Fill all ice trays or consider purchasing ice for extra cold storage in portable coolers.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, water jugs and/or cooking utensils.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof

- container on the highest level of your home.
   Bring in small items outside your home that could become projectiles with high winds. Insure large items (sheds, swingsets) are secured with hurricane tie-downs.
- Decide well in advance if evacuation is your best option even if an evacuation order has not been given — to avoid heavy or backed up traffic.
- If evacuating, remember to carry identification cards, proof of address, etc., to regain access in the event an area is placed on restriction.
- uation plans and family rallying points. Move vehicles given.

- to higher ground or an area not prone to severe
- Place flashlights where they are easily accessible, especially bedrooms and common living areas. Do not use candles or devices with an open flame.
- Maintain contact with family and your employer.
   Continue to monitor radio and television news
- reports for additional information about the storm or possible evacuation plans. Prior to Isabel, Fort Monroe hosted a series of Town Hall meetings that also provided valuable information.
- If you decide to remain in your home, review evac- Always be prepared to evacuate if the order is

### **During the storm**

- Monitor the radio or television for weather conditions and emergency announcements, if possible.
- Do not go outside, even if the weather appears to have calmed — the calm "eye" of the storm can pass quickly, leaving you outside when strong winds
- Do not attempt to drive anywhere leave the roads clear for emergency vehicles.
- Expect the loss of electricity, gas and water.
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce the power "surge" when electricity is restored.
- If you should lose power, eat perishable food first.
- Stay away from all windows and exterior doors,
- seeking shelter in a bathroom or basement. Bathtubs can provide some shelter if you cover yourself with plywood or other materials.
- Remain as calm as possible. Keep children busy with talk and games to alleviate stress.
- Be prepared to evacuate to a shelter or a neighbor's home if your home is damaged or if you are instructed to do so by emergency personnel.
- If you abandon your quarters, lock all windows and doors and turn off all circuit breakers other than that which powers your refrigerator. Also turn off all heater/air conditioning units.
- If an emergency forces you out of your home, pro-
- ceed directly to another shelter. Do not attempt to move debris or other items which may have came into contact with live power lines.
- If you must abandon your pets, insure they are safe in an inside room and have a fresh supply of food and
- Have emergency numbers available at all times. The Fort Monroe military police can be reached at 788-2238/2239 for emergency assistance or referral.

The Monroe Installation Operations Center hotline number is 788-6318.

### **After the storm**

- Help injured or trapped persons. Give first aid where appropriate.
- Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
- Return home only after authorities say it is safe to
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company, police or fire department. For those on post, contact DPW's Service Order Desk at 788-4228 or the fire department at 788-2287.
- Enter your home with caution. Beware of snakes and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
- Check for gas leaks and leave the home immediate- its contents for insurance claims. ly if detected. Contact the gas company from a neigh-
- Check for electrical damage and turn off all circuit breakers immediately if detected. Contact an electrician or your power company.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your
- Check refrigerated food for spoilage. Discard any food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more. Your refrigerator will keep foods cool for
- about four hours without power if it is unopened. ■ Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and

- Drive only if absolutely necessary, and watch for flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- Use telephones only for emergency calls.
- Do not allow children to play in floodwater areas or play with floodwater contaminated toys.
- Wash hands frequently to avoid illness caused by contaminated water.
- Do not use tap water for drinking, cooking or
- bathing until it has been declared safe by authorities.

  Look out for your family's mental health. Get plenty of rest, eat regular meals and be patient. It will take time for life to return to normal

Information gathered from the National Center for Environmental Health, Fort Monroe DPW, www.emergencymail.org and the WAVY 10 Hurricane Survival Guide

# Sport& Health

# Got any sports results? Need to advertise an upcoming event? Give us a call at 788-3208 or e-mail casemate@monroe.army.mil.



# Post runners outpace Bay Days' pack



Photos by Dale Abrahamso

With a combined time of 2:52:16, Fort Monroe's military running team cruised to a first place finish in their category during the 2005 Hampton Bay Days 10K race on Sept. 10.

Three of four runners on the post team, which competed under the title of Monroe BRAC Attack, placed first in their age group. Col. Jody Draves swept the women's masters competition with a 10K race time of 47:28. Capt. Jon Griese placed first in the men's 30-

34 age group with a time of 41:39, and retired Lt. Col. Ed Elmore placed first in the men's 50-54 age group with a time of 41:51.

Lt. Col. Ken Downer also made a respectable showing in the men's 40-44 age group. He placed fourth overall with a time of 41:18.

Two hundred and twenty-seven runners and six teams crossed the finish line during this year's race.

The Monroe BRAC Attack was fourth overall. The team's combined time averages out to a 6:57

minute mile.

This is the third and last of a series of races the Fort Monroe running team will compete in leading up to the Army 10-Mile Race scheduled for Oct. 2 in Washington, D.C., according to Dale Abrahamson, team coordinator.

All post Soldiers and civilians are invited to join the team. For more information, contact Abrahamson at 788-4227, or Lt. Col. Mark Carper at 788-4218.

Photo far left: Lt. Col. Ken Downer competes in the Hampton Bay Days 10K race on Sept. 10. Downer placed fourth in his age category with a time of 41:18. Photo left: from left to right, Capt. Jon Griese, Col. Jody Draves, Lt. Col. Ken Downer and Ed Elmore pose with the many trophies they earned during the Bay Days race. The Fort Monroe team placed first in the military category with a combined time of 2:52:16, which averages out to a 6:57 minute mile.



3X7 AD 3X7 AD

## **HHC** announces semi-annual **Army fitness test**

Headquarters Company Fort Monroe will conduct its semi-annual Army Physical Fitness Test and weigh-in during eight sessions throughout October at the Community Activities

All HHC, TRADOC and Fort Monroe assigned Soldiers are required by Army regulation to take the test. Individuals with a medical profile that prohibits participation in the APFT must still complete the weigh-in.

The APFT test dates are as follows: Oct. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25 and 27 (every Tuesday and Thursday). All sessions begin at 6:30 a.m.

The Army Physical Fitness Uniform will be worn during testing. Only the APFU shorts, Tshirt and socks will be worn during the weighin, which must be conducted within 72 hours of the APFT.

Any individual who does not meet the screening table weight in accordance with AR 600-9 will be directed to the HHC training office for a body fat tape test.

Soldiers may be flagged from all favorable actions, to include promotions and selection for training schools, if they fail to meet Army weight standards, fail the APFT or do not complete both required actions by Nov. 1.

Those who score 270 or above, with a minimum of 90 points per APFT event, and meet body fat standards will be awarded the Physical Fitness Badge and a three-day pass.

For more information, call Sgt. Jacob Borth at 788-3703.

# Sports Roundup

### Fall intramural golf league

Active duty and retired military personnel, their family members, and DoD and contract civilians on Fort Monroe are invited to participate in the post's fall intramural golf league.

A new format – two-person teams and nine holes - will be used. Games are held at the Woodlands Golf Course in Hampton on Thursdays beginning at 3:30 p.m., through Nov. 2. Green fees are \$13, cart fee is \$5.30.

Contact the Fort Monroe Sports Office at 788-2783 for more information.

### Noland Trail 10K

The 4th Annual Noland Trail 10K will take place Oct. 29, starting at 10 a.m. in the vicinity of the Mariners' Museum.

The scenic 6.2-mile race route meanders around Lake Maury. The heavily wooded area offers plenty of shade to keep runners cool.

Participation is limited to 300 runners. Registration will be first come, first served. Prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female competitors in each age category.

For more information, call 591-7739 or visit www.mariner.org.

### Sandman triathlon

The 23rd Annual Sandman Triathlon will be held at the Virginia Beach oceanfront on Sept. 25 beginning at 8 a.m. The "ChampionChip" timing system will be used.

Participants must be over 18, and advance registration is required. For more information, visit www.sandmantri.com.

### Holiday House 5K

The Knights of Columbus will host its 24th Annual Run for Holiday House benefit Saturday. The one-mile race/walk takes off at 8 a.m., and the 5K starts one half hour later in the Olde Towne section of Portsmouth. For more information, call the Tidewater Striders race hotline at 627-7223.

### Cross-country challenge

Mount Trashmore Park in Virginia Beach is the location for a 5K, cross-country run on Oct. 8 beginning at 8:30 a.m. The course scales Trashmore and winds through the park. Surfaces include grass, gravel and paved trails.

For more information, contact race director Ron Jones at 467-0520.

### Katrina relief 5K

A 5K family fun run/walk will be held at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens on Oct. 8 beginning at 8 a.m. to benefit the people whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The suggested registration fee is \$25 per person and checks should be made out to the American Red Cross.

For more information, visit www.kalerunning.com or call R.P. Kale at 404-4657.

### Youth league signups

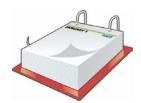
The Fort Monroe Bowl is looking for players to join its youth bowling league. The signup deadline is Sept. 23. The league starts Sept. 27. Youth ages 5 and up may participate. For more information, or to join the league, call 788-2939.

# Moat<sub>Notes</sub>

### **UPCOMING SPOTLIGHT EVENTS**

Hispanic Heritage Program . Sept. 20 POSH Make-up Training . . . Sept. 26
Project Clean Sweep . . . . Sept. 20
Ethics Training . . . . . . . Sept. 21
Post Run . . . . . . . Sept. 27
Post Retirement Ceremony . . Sept. 30

For more on these and other upcoming events, see listings below or other stories and briefs in this issue.



### *Sept.* 16

### Air show

Offering awesome aerial acrobatics and astounding displays of air combat power, the 2005 NAS Oceana Air Show takes place today through Sunday at the master jet base in Virginia Beach.

The air show's "headliners" include the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels Flight Demonstration jet team, the Red Baron Pizza Squadron, the Skytypers Air Show Team, and Jim Leroy in his Bulldog Pitts Special.

Those attending the three-day event will also enjoy a festive atmosphere with bands, carnival-style rides and food and beverage concessions. All demonstrations are open to the public, and many events are free. Gates open today at 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 8 a.m.

For more information, to include a complete schedule of events and a description of featured performers, visit www.oceanaairshow.com.

### Bea Arthur

The Emmy-award-winning actress Bea Arthur, who is best known for her starring roles in "Maude" and "The Golden Girls," will be performing at the American Theatre, Hampton, today and Saturday, starting at 8 p.m.

Accompanied by her longtime friend and award-winning composer Billy Goldenberg, Arthur will take the audience on a journey of song and stories. Her shows are both heartfelt and humorous, and the intimate setting of the American Theatre will make this a performance that will be long remembered.

All tickets are \$60 each. No discounts will be applied for this show. For more information or to reserve seats by phone, call 722-2787.

### Umoja Festival

For the 15th consecutive year, Olde Towne Portsmouth will be the site of the Umoja Festival — a celebration of African-American heritage — scheduled for today through Sunday at the NTELOS Pavilion at Harbor Center on Crawford Street.

The celebration kicks off at 5:15 p.m. with a traditional drum call, which is used in African culture to summon the community for a special gathering. After the official opening, an assortment of festivities will begin, to include a nearly continuous lineup of musical groups offering reggae, gospel, rhythm and blues and Top 40 favorites.

The weekend-long event will also feature numerous cultural displays and dance demonstrations, chil-

## Sentimental Journey



mobile canteen on Sept. 9 at Coliseum Mall, Hampton. The can-

teen will provide "a touch of home" for service members.

Josie Rusia signs a banner to be carried to troops – who are helping with hurricane relief – in the USO's only state-side

dren's activities and plenty of exotic

For more information about the festival and ticket requirements and costs, call 393-8481 or visit www.umojafest.com.

### Book sale

The Friends of the Hampton Public Library will host a used book sale today through Sunday at the main branch location, 4207 Victoria Boulevard. Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., today and tomorrow, and 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday.

The large selection of hard- and soft-covered books include fiction and non-fiction, as well as an assortment of "how-to" publications. All proceeds from the event benefit library programs. For further information, call 727-1154.

### Sept. 17

### **Bruce Hornsby**

A special benefit performance by Hampton Roads native Bruce Hornsby will begin at 8 p.m., Saturday, at the Ferguson Center for the Performing Arts, Newport News. Hornsby donated the show in celebration of the Ferguson Center's newly opened concert hall.

Hornsby is a three-time, Grammy-award-winning artist who has sold more than 10 million albums worldwide since his multi-platinum debut in 1986. He has also toured several continents with the Grateful Dead.

Tickets for the concert range from \$35 to \$55, depending on seating location. To make reservations by phone, call 872-8100 (Ticketmaster Williamsburg) or 671-8100 (Ticketmaster Virginia Beach). Tickets may also be purchased at the Ferguson Center Box Office.

For more information about the Ferguson's '05-'06 concert season, visit fergusoncenter.cnu.edu.

### Jazz concert

The Williamsburg Regional Library will host a jazz concert, featuring vocalist Stephanie Nakasian and the Harris Simon Trio, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Audiences and critics have compared Nakasian to jazz legends like Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughn. She is an accomplished recording artist and stage performer. Her most recent engagements include guest appearances with the Jim Cullum Jazz Band on their internationally syndicated public radio show "Riverwalk."

Tickets for the performance are \$14 for adults, \$10 for students with ID and \$7 for those 16 years of age and under. For more information or to make reservations by phone, call 259-4070.

#### Lantern tours

Discover more than 300 years of history during the Olde Towne Portsmouth Lantern Tour offered each Saturday and Tuesday in September. A lantern-toting guide dressed in period attire leads each tour, which includes Portsmouth's picturesque historic district. For more information, call 393-5111.

Sept. 20

### Glass class

The Fort Monroe Frame and Craft Shop will begin its next stained glass class Tuesday at 6 p.m. It is also offering a new day-time class, which will begin Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Beginners will complete two projects in class and learn about glass selection, patterns, glass cutting, foiling and soldering. Intermediate crafters are asked to pick a project that they feel is beyond their reach and bring the pattern and their ideas to the first class.

Each session will last approximately two hours, and the class continues for six weeks. The cost is \$40 for beginners, and \$50 for intermediate students, plus supplies. Pre-registration is required. For more information, or to reserve a space, call 788-2728.

### AT THE MOVIES

Showing at the Fort Eustis Theater

Eustis Theater

Friday, Sept. 16 7 p.m. — The Great Raid (R)

Saturday, Sept. 17

2 p.m. — No Show 7 p.m. — Dukes of Hazard (PG-13)

Wednesday, Sept. 21

7 p.m. —No Show

Thursday, Sept. 22

7 p.m. — Dukes of Hazard (PG-13) Friday, Sept. 23

7 p.m. — Four Brothers (R)

Saturday, Sept. 24

2 p.m. — Valiant (G) 7 p.m. — Four Brothers (R)

Wednesday, Sept. 28

7 p.m. — No Show Thursday, Sept. 29

7 p.m. —Valiant (G)

\*The Langley Air Force Base movie theater is closed for renovations.

Adults \$2, children 6-12 years old \$1.50 and children under 6 are free. If a child under 6 occupies a seat at a G-rated movie, admission is \$1.50. For more information, call 766-1237.

### *Sept. 22*

### Army jazz show

The "Ambassadors Jazztet" of the U.S. Army Field Band will be featured during a free concert Thursday at the Williamsburg Library Theatre. The show starts at 7 p.m.

Known for their high-energy performances that are sprinkled with traditional jazz favorites, the Ambassadors also bring an array of new compositions prepared by its own members. These works vary greatly, sometimes paying homage to older styles or exploring an entirely new sound, but the audience is promised an exciting lineup of improvised solos.

Tickets are required to guarantee seating. Up to four tickets per person can be picked up at the Williamsburg Library Program Services Desk. Non-ticket holders will be admitted 10 minutes prior to the start of the show to fill any remaining seats. For more information, call 259-4070.

### Sept. 24

### Groucho Marx

Award-winning actor Frank Ferrante brings his comedy hit "An Evening with Groucho" to the American Theatre, Hampton, Sept. 24. at 8 p.m.

Accompanied by his on-stage pianist, Ferrante portrays the young Groucho Marx of stage and film, and introduces onlookers to his equally comical brothers, Harpo, Chico, Zeppo and Gummo. This fast-paced comedy is packed with songs, dances, jokes and ad-libs. Tickets are \$25 or \$30, depending on seating location. For more information, or to make reservations by phone, call 727-2787.

### Culture concert

The Hampton History Museum will sponsor a free concert titled "Melting Pot & Salad Bowl," featuring the Four Seasons String Quartet, at 2 p.m., Sept. 24 at 120 Old Hampton Lane.

This unique program explores

the three waves of immigration to America and celebrates our country's evolution from "melting pot" to a salad bowl where cultural differences are embraced. For more information, call 727-1610.

### Covote Run

The lively Celtic music of Coyote Run will be featured during a free concert at 7 p.m., Sept. 24 in the courtyard of the historic Episcopal Church in Yorktown. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs or a blanket to make themselves comfortable, and even pack a picnic supper to enjoy during the show. For more information, call 890-

### Endview battle

Endview Plantation, Newport News, will recreate the "Siege of Yorktown" during their annual Revolutionary War re-enactment weekend scheduled for Sept. 24 and 25. The event includes demonstrations of camp life and an assortment of living history discussions. Food vendors will also be on site.

The Yorktown siege was the last major campaign of the American Revolution. It pitted 18,000 American and French troops against 7,700 British, Hessian and Loyalist soldiers. Endview itself played a major role in that conflict, as well as the War of 1812 and the Civil war when the historic mansion served as a hospital for both sides.

The reenactment will be ongoing throughout Endview's regular weekend operating hours, which are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for children ages 7 to 18. For more information, call 887-1862.

### Wine & Jazz Fest

An afternoon of fine wine, art and jazz is being offered by Mill Point Park, Hampton, Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Romance on the River Wine & Jazz Festival will feature gourmet food prepared by some of the area's favorite restaurateurs and eateries, samples of products from twelve of Virginia's most successful wineries, and a premium

ensemble of musicians to include Sonya Lorelle and Osmosis and the Charles Darden Quartet.

Interested participants can purchase "wine passports" in advance for \$15, or \$20 on the day of the event. The passports offer unlimited tasting and a commemorative glass. For more information and passport purchases, call 727-1271.

### Girl Scout fest

Girl Scout Fest 2005 is scheduled to take place Sept. 24 at the Constant Convocation Center, ODU Campus, Norfolk, from noon to 4 p.m.

The event features more than 50 museum and community exhibits, and lots of hands-on activities for all ages. Teens and tots can launch rockets with NASA experts, watch the "Mad Science" theater on stage, leap into the moonwalk, and more.

The cost is \$3. There is no charge for parking. For more information, call 547-4405.

### *Oct.* 1

### Folk and bluegrass

Yoder Barn Theatre, Newport News, presents a performance of folk and bluegrass music by Bill and Pam Gurley on Oct. 1 starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and can be reserved by calling 249-4187. For more information about the performers and the history of Yoder Barn, visit www.yoderbarn.com.

### Hawk walk

Bald eagles, peregrine falcons, kestrels and other birds of prey will be the focus of a special program titled "Weekend Safari: Hawk Watching on the Eastern Shore" hosted by the Virginia Living Museum, Newport News, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 1.

Participants will travel to Virginia's Eastern Shore to observe a variety of raptors as they migrate south along the Atlantic Flyway. On some days, a thousand birds of prey may be counted. There will also be opportunities for beachcombing and just enjoying the out-

The participation fee is \$30 for

members and \$45 for non-members. Advance registration is required. For more information and reservations, call 595-9135.

### Folklife festival

Southeast Virginia's biggest traditional craft show returns to Newport News Park Oct. 1 and 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

The 32nd Annual Fall Festival of Folklife will feature more than 250 vendors and include children's activities, food booths, craft and trade demonstrations, and non-stop entertainment on four stages. There is a \$5 parking fee per vehicle. For more information, call 926-

### 'Five Alarm' party

There will be plenty of things to do, see and taste at the 2005 Five Alarm Festival and Chili Cook-off Oct. 1 at Mill Point Park, Hampton.

The event, which follows the annual fire prevention parade, will feature displays of modern and antique fire trucks and equipment, fire and rescue demonstrations, children's activities, live music and a competition of chili culinary arts.

Those who would like to compete in the chili cook-off need to sign up by Sept. 19. For more information, call 727-1540.

### Oct. 6

### Money talk

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Office, Newport News, is hosting a series of workshops titled "Money Talk: A Financial Guide for Women" on Oct. 6, 13 and 20 at the Midtown Community Center.

Each two-hour session will begin at 7 p.m. and the topics will range from basic insurance coverage to investments and planning for future life events. This comprehensive series will answer many of the most common financial questions. The series includes a workbook that provides the tools needed to take charge of your financial future.

There is a fee of \$15 per person. Those interested must register by Oct. 3. For more information, call 591-4838.



### lmages of the Past

### Splash Bash

The swimming pool at the Officers' Beach Club — now the Bay Breeze Community Center — was constructed between April and June 1934. This photo may have been taken on the opening day of July 22 or certainly very close to that date. The pool originally used filtered sea water and was notable at the time for its underwater lighting system.

Photo contributed by the Casemate Museum

# Army sergeant finds way back home

#### BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE

**CASEMATE STAFF WRITER** 

Click, click, click ... "there's no place like

Well that may work after donning ruby slippers like fictional Dorothy in the "Wizard of Oz," but it takes a little longer to return home when wearing Army boots; to which Sgt. 1st Class Vernetta McKoy can attest.

The Hampton native has been stationed around the world, and has finally come to the place where she spent countless hours of her childhood, Fort Monroe.

"When you join the Army, they give you a wish list and you put down three places you wish to be stationed; this was always my first choice. When I made the sergeant first class list, the DA assignments NCOIC said 'where do you want to go? There's a slot in Hawaii.' I said no, can you get me to Fort Monroe? "He said, 'no; nobody can get you to Fort Monroe.' Very few people in the Army even know about Fort Monroe ... how nice

"He called me back in two days and said, 'guess what, I got you Fort Monroe, but you've got to go to Korea first," McKoy said.

McKoy said she would take it. So, off to Korea she went for her second tour. Afterwards, there indeed was a slot waiting for her here. She arrived at Monroe in April.

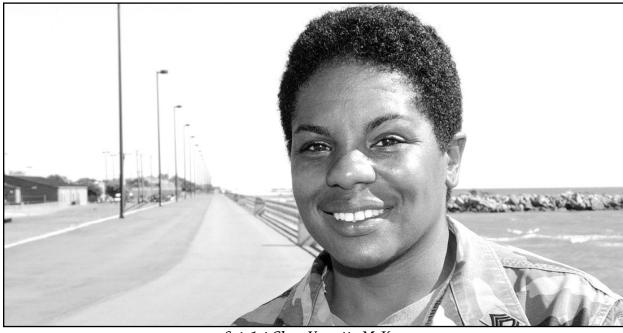
She said that Fort Monroe is like home to her. Vera Hollier, her mother, worked at the bowling



McKoy at age 12

alley and her dad, Dwight Hollier, Sr. spent many evenings coaching little league football on post. Consequently, riding her bicycle from their Mallory Street home to post was practically an everyday jaunt for her and her three brothers.

Times have changed here since the days of joining what she said seemed like "a million kids" to practice cheerleading while her brothers trained in football. They would pause, come to attention with hands



Sgt. 1st Class Vernetta McKoy

over hearts to pay homage to Soldiers as "Retreat" was played each day at 5 p.m.

But, all of her memories of the fort weren't so

"Right over on that side," she said pointing toward the Patch Road soccer field "we used to practice in between the softball field and some buildings. After "Retreat" one day, my brothers ran across the street and pushed me in the moat. I was about 9 years old; they got into so much trouble with that. My dad got me out so fast, though, that I can't remember how deep the water was."

She hadn't been acquainted with many people who lived on post until attending Spratley Middle School. That's when she found that some of her classmates were children of Soldiers who

"My best friend's father was the post commander around '84 or '85. She had been overseas a lot and to Germany; I always wanted to go to Germany. I said (to myself), 'the only way I'll ever get out of Virginia is join the military,"

"Germany was my first assignment. I've been to Spain, Italy, France, all over Europe. I've been to Korea twice, stationed near the DMZ and further south. I even got to see the city of Seoul. I haven't been (stationed) near a beach. I was stationed in Kansas for a while. There are no beaches in Kansas. When I was stationed in Augusta, Ga., I would drive home every other weekend to

see the water," the 14-year veteran said.

She said the post has changed considerably. The roads are well paved and the play areas are nice, not the "gravel and rocks" she remembers from childhood. The sea wall also is inviting for walking, running or just sitting.

"I'm glad I missed Isabel. (Fort Monroe) is beautiful. It's way more beautiful then I remember as a kid. When I first came home, my mom asked why I don't live on post. 'I said I don't want to live on post. I remember how those houses looked when I was little," McKoy said.

Giving in to mom, she took a look at housing

"When I came (here), the apartment manager said to go, take a look at Monroe apartments. The particular apartment she sent me too ... well, I think they had the blinds up on purpose; it was a beautiful sunny day. And, when I took a look at that view I said, 'Yes, I'm living here,"

"My friends get so tired of hearing me, 'okay, we've got it,' they say, 'The Chesapeake Bay is in your yard.' It's better than being stationed anywhere else. I feel safe. My kids go outside to read. They have been to the museum so many

"I know, when I leave here, I'll never see anything like this again. Just waking up and seeing the ocean, that's the most beautiful thing in the world. I soak up as much of it as I can," she said.

### **Continued from Page 11**

vides a sense of dignity, security, also noted. Other options, which

"Check with your veterinarian. and permanence," the Web site or the phone directory, for options such plans in advance, rather available in your area," pet- than hurriedly in the midst of may be less expensive, include loss.net advised. "Consider your the pet disposal services that are living situation, personal and offered by many vet clinics or pet religious values, finances, and future plans when making your

MR. SPOOK SHEA NOV. 1945 - FEB. 1962 ARMY DOG, WORLD TRAVELER AND OUR BEST FRIEND.

decision. It's also wise to make griet.

While no longer used, the Casemate cemetery now serves as a tribute to the special bond between families and their loving pets. It's also a reflection of the many families who have called Fort Monroe "home" for decades.

"The pet cemetery has become a part of the great history of Fort Monroe," Johnson said. "And it only complements the great historical value that the base has to

(David Johnson of the Casemate Museum and Patrick Buffett, editor of the Casemate newspaper contributed to this article.)

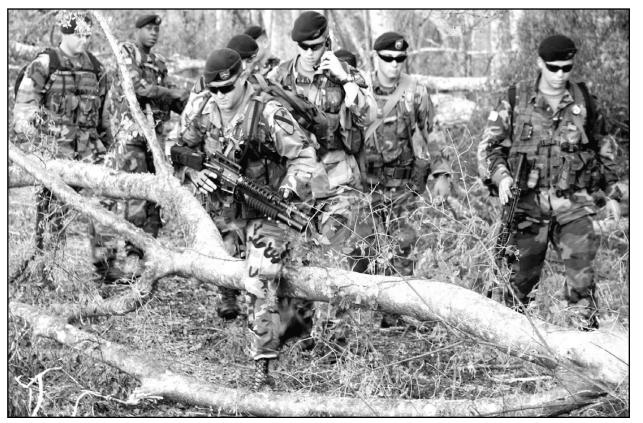


Back to School

Chief Warrant Officers Norm MacIntosh, right, and Ronald Smith, center, receive tokens of appreciation for their recent visit to Old Dominion University, Norfolk. The Virginia Air National Guardsmen participated in the university's "2005 Freshman Debut." Students and cadets had an opportunity to chat with the pilots and check out the Blackhawk helicopter they flew in to the event.

Fort Monroe is the final resting place for "Mr. Spook Shea."

## Around the Army This Week



### Katrina Patrol

In an outlying area of New Orleans, Soldiers from the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, traverse trees downed by Hurricane Katrina. The Soldiers were approaching all homes in their sector of the city, including those in isolated areas, to collect utility damage reports and ask residents remaining in their homes if they needed assistance.

# Cavalry makes difference in New Orleans recovery

BY SPC. JOSHUA MCPHIE

**ARMY NEWS SERVICE** 

NEW ORLEANS — The damage caused by Hurricane Katrina is almost too much to comprehend. Homes are surrounded by water, stretching as far as you can see, punctuated by the occasional smoldering shell of a burnt-out building.

But some things in the grief-stricken city have changed for the better in the last few days. Overpasses, rooftops, the convention center and stadiums are no longer the islands of huddled refugees they were following the brutal storm, thanks in part to Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Air Cavalry Brigade.

More than 200 Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry's Warrior Brigade along with over 300 Soldiers from 4ID and other Army aviation units make up Task Force Warrior.

They have been working to help the hurricane survivors by joining forces with aviators from the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and several civilian agencies working around the clock to relieve the suffering.

Since they arrived here Sept. 1, the Cav air crews have been shuttling Soldiers into the city, moving stranded refugees to safer areas, airlifting injured people to hospitals and delivering much needed supplies.

"We're still in crisis response." Said Col. Dan Shanahan, commander of the Task Force. "The bulk of the force is doing humanitarian relief."

He said the aircrews' immediate concern was to help evacuate everyone and help sustain life.

"For the most part we've been doing passenger movements," Sgt. Kendrick Scott, Bravo Company 2nd Battalion 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, said of his Chinook crew's missions.

Much of their work has been transporting people who have had to abandon their homes, the Louisville, Ky. native said.

Scott, a flight engineer, estimates their crew has also moved 5,000 pounds of cargo, food and supplies to the Superdome in their first three days. Several of their missions have included dropping off pallets of supplies.

"Usually it takes about two hours of prior work for that operation, which is only about 20 minutes," Scott said.

Before the Chinook picks up the supplies, Soldiers lay out cargo netting, put pallets on top of them, pile the supplies on top, wrap it all with the cargo net and position a hook on the top of the load, Scott said.

"We'll hover over the pallets, hook up to the hooks and we're off," Scott said.

Flying over New Orleans made it even easier to see the devastation caused by the storm. Scott said he could see the damage and knew that people had lost everything.

"It's kind of hard to watch," Scott said. "You'll see a lot of houses with the word help painted on

Now that many of the city's residents are out of immediate danger, the aviation leaders are developing a plan of action for the next phase, Shanahan said.

The initial phase was moving people from their homes to high and dry areas," he said. "We will move into a more logistical role soon."

Let's hope with the new role that the cavalry continues to make a difference in helping the hard-hit city recover.

(Editor's note: Spc. Joshua McPhie serves with 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs.)

## Task Force Hope moving mountains in Mississippi

GULFPORT, Miss. — The Army Corps of Engineers' Task Force Hope in Mississippi is now heavily focused on recovery operations as requirements for power, water and ice support have dropped significantly with local systems coming back on line.

#### **Debris Removal**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that there are currently about 18 to 20 million cubic yards of debris in the hurricane impacted area of Mississippi. It will take about 8 months to remove it from the streets, and roughly a year and a half to completely dispose of it.

Right now the task force is moving roughly 100,000 cubic yards of debris per day, but it's ramping up and officials said they expect that amount to increase.

The Corps of Engineers coordinates its disposal efforts with the local community and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Coast Guard, officials said.

The EPA and Coast Guard are working on targeting large-scale hazardous materials, while the Corps is working on clearing debris on the roads and selectively removing hazardous materials as they are discovered, officials said.

### **Temporary Roofing**

More than 5,200 requests for Operation Blue Roof have been received in the past few days. Over 200 roofs were repaired in the past 24 hours. More than 100 crews are now working.

Estimates are that 23,000 roof repairs will be required, Corps officials said. They added that about 1,000 work orders are about to be issued to contractors. Operation Blue Roof Sign Up Centers are now open in Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, Forrest, Stone, Lamar, Marion, Jefferson Davis and Pearl River counties.

### **Temporary Housing**

Temporary housing is being handled using a national/regional approach through the FEMA Housing Area Command.

### **Water/Waste Water Restoration**

A total of 46 systems are known to need assessments, Corps officials said. A 10-12 person team from the EPA will join the Corps of Engineers team at Keesler Air Force Base in supporting this FEMA mission, officials said.

### **Temporary Classroom Sites & Emergency Facilities**

The Corps of Engineers has received a mission to place approximately 450 temporary classrooms on school property in the impacted areas. This mission also tasks the Corps to provide portable buildings for public facilities such as fire stations, police stations, and emergency centers. The current focus is coordinating with the state to identify and prioritize structures.

### Keeping lights on in Biloxi

The power station in Biloxi faced a big problem after Hurricane Katrina. The plant needed the damaged Popps Ferry Bridge opened to supply coal necessary for power generation. A united team from the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Harrison County, the City of Biloxi, and a University of Wyoming professor developed a creative plan to safely raise the bridge and keep power flowing to the area.

(Editor's note: Information taken from Army Corps of Engineers news releases.)



every month. For more information or to sign up for the briefing, call 788-3878.

#### AFAP Forum

Issues are now being accepted for Fort Monroe's 2006 Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Forum, which will be held Jan. 18 and 19 at the Soldier and Family Support Center, 96 Stillwell

Persons submitting issues should provide the title of the issue, the scope which defines the problem and recommendations for resolving it. The forum addresses quality-of-life issues and provides feedback to Army leadership on how programs and services can be improved to meet the needs of military personnel, their families and DA civilians.

Submissions should be sent via e-mail to Beverly Nicholson, program coordinator, at nicholsb@monroe.army.mil or regular mail to Soldier and Family Support Center, 96 Stilwell Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651.

### Free credit report

As of Sept. 1, consumers can obtain one free copy of their credit report annually from the three major credit bureaus. To request a copy, visit: https://www.annualcreditreport.com/ cra/index.jsp.

Consumers can also call a toll-free number, 1-877-322-8228, to get their report, or they can send for it via regular mail.

If you need assistance with obtaining or understanding the report, schedule an appointment with Beverly Nicholson, personal financial readiness specialist, at 788-4132. You may also stop by the Soldier and Family Support Center, 96 Stilwell Road, to schedule an appointment.

### Boots n'Booties

The Soldier and Family Support Center will host a free Boots 'n Booties class on Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The program is designed to assist expectant parents in preparing for a baby's arrival. New parents will also find the class helpful.

Subjects to be addressed include infant growth and development, budgeting for a baby, car seat installation, childcare options, parenting skills, and available resources. Each participant will receive a free layette.

This program is open to active-duty service members, family members, DA civilians, and retirees. To register, contact Kathleen Miller at 788-3878. The class will be held at the Soldier & Family Support Center, 96 Stilwell Road.

### 'Toddler Time' play morning

The Soldier and Family Support Center sponsors a "Toddler Time" playgroup.

The program helps children develop social skills through unstructured playtime. It can lead to new friendships for the participating children and their parents. The program also gives moms and dads the chance to meet other parents and share experiences, swap stories, and ask for advice about parenting issues.

Toddler Time is open to active duty service members, family members, DA civilians, and retirees. To register or obtain additional information, contact Kathleen Miller at 788-3878.

The schedule of upcoming sessions is as fol-

**Sept. 19 and 26, 9:30-10:30 a.m. – Communi**ty Activities Center (CAC) indoor gym.

Oct. 3, 10-11 a.m. – CAC indoor pool. **Oct. 10** – Holiday, no playgroup on this day.

Oct. 17, 24 and 31, 9:30-10:30 a.m. - CAC indoor gym.

### Team-building classes return

Army Family Team-Building (AFTB) classes return to Fort Monroe this fall. The sessions help participants learn how to translate military lingo, understand benefits and access the services available to all.

Army Community Services hosts a Newcomer's Orientation the second Thursday of

AFTB "grows" personal skills that will make you an asset to any organization. It can help you become a leader and mentor to others.

The sessions are free and open to everyone. All classes are conducted at the Soldier and Family Support Center from noon to 1 p.m. Participants may bring a lunch. For more information or to register for a session, contact Kathleen Miller at 788-3878 or millerka@monroe. army.mil.

Upcoming classes are as follows:

Oct. 6, Introduction to Military and Civilian Community Resources - An overview of the resources available at Fort Monroe and in the surrounding community.

Oct. 12, Supporting Your Child's Education - Reinforces the importance of parental involvement in a child's education. It also provides an overview of the School Liaison Officer's (SLO) role to assist Army families in obtaining a good educational experience for their children, particularly when they are transitioning from school to school.

Oct.19. Introduction to Family Financial Readiness - Introduces basic money management and financial planning techniques. It illustrates the advantages and techniques of creating a family financial plan, how to save wisely, and information on credit. It defines saving and investment and reinforces the importance of planning for the future.

Oct. 26, Basic Problem Solving - Describes and provides an opportunity to practice a sixstep problem solving process to help determine solutions to various real-life scenarios.

### **Fort Monroe Sexual Assault Prevention** and Response Program **Phone Card**

Clip and Save

### Advocates are on call 24/7

Richey Cooper, Sexual Assault Response Program Coordinator, (757) 387-0265

Eva Granville, Installation Victim Advocate, (757) 387-0266

Unit Victim Advocates, (757) 387-0267

Victims may remain anonymous!

3X5 **AD** 

3X5 AD